

Volunteers help raise some forests

BPA's Earth Day events in the Portland/Vancouver area this year should show results for years to come. In mid-April, Ross and headquarters employees planted trees.

At the Ross Complex, about 30 volunteers helped plant 130 mature trees of varying types. All are native to the area, including northern red oak, birch, hawthorn, western red cedar, Sitka spruce, Douglas fir, chokeberry and others.

Facilities manager Paul Martin said BPA worked with Friends of Trees and others on the project. Mike Conners coordinated the Ross Earth Day planting. Many of the hardwoods are seven feet tall or higher. The evergreens ran from five to seven feet.

Workers planted trees along parts of the Ellen Davis Trail, along 15th Avenue into the Ross Complex from residential Vancouver and along part of Ross Road.

Several members of the executive committee worked with other employees at Ross. Steve Wright, corporate vice president, had urged managers to take part in the Earth Day project. Their work would count toward their challenge for public service after last fall's Combined Federal Campaign. Among those who planted trees at Ross were Fred Johnson, Paul Norman, Jim Curtis, Pam Marshall and Steve Hickok

Hickok had started his day at 5 a.m. Portland time in Washington, D.C. He arrived back home just before noon and headed for Ross to do his Earth Day duty.

The week after the Ross project, about 60 volunteers from headquarters helped plant 150 to 200 sapling white oak trees near the Sandy River east of Portland. Cheri Larson coordinated the event with the U.S. Forest Service and Friends of Trees.

The 1,600-acre Sandy River delta is the westernmost forest land of the Columbia Gorge Scenic area. Robin Dobson of the USFS at Hood River says the total project there will eventually have about 1,000 oak trees.

The saplings are native to the area. Dobson collected the acorns for the plants from below the oak trees in Lewis and Clark Park that adjoins the delta property. Dobson says that very few hardwood forests remain in the Northwest, so this particular project will be unique for the area.

The BPA workers at the delta had sunny weather to work in, and much smaller plants to deal with. But they had to stake and wire cages around the plants to prevent rodents and deer from eating the plants.

Vice presidents Wright and Greg Delwiche did their public service challenge duty at the delta. And we noticed Wright keeping an eye out for managers who showed up, and for those who didn't. ◀

Photos by Jack Odgaard

